

IN THE CLAIMS:

Claims 1 - 20 (Cancelled)

Claim 21 (currently amended) An edible product comprising a solid or semi-solid foodstuff and a calcareous residue of corallinaceae containing primarily mineral substances with a content of heavy metals below the upper limits acceptable for edible products, wherein the calcareous residue of corallinaceae is present in an ~~amount~~, ~~within the amount within~~ a range of 0.5% to 5% by weight of the edible product, said foodstuff being one in which the presence of the calcareous residue improves a property of the edible product ~~such that the edible product has improved organoleptic properties~~ as compared to the same product free of said residue, said property being selected from the group consisting of texture, mouth feel, strength, shelf life and flavor.

Claim 22 (previously presented) An edible product according to Claim 21, in which the foodstuff contains fat material, the corallinaceae residue being in a generally dispersed condition in the fat material.

Claim 23 (previously presented) An edible product according to Claim 21, in which the foodstuff is a foodstuff to be consumed in a frozen form.

Claim 24 (previously presented) An edible product according to Claim 21, in which the foodstuff is a carbohydrate product.

Claim 25 (previously presented) An edible product according to Claim 22, in which the foodstuff is a chocolate product.

Claim 26 (previously presented) An edible product according to Claim 24, in which the foodstuff is a farinaceous product.

Claim 27 (previously presented) An edible product according to Claim 26, in which the foodstuff is primarily composed of a starch-based material.

Claim 28 (previously presented) An edible product according to Claim 21, wherein the calcareous residue is present in an amount of between about 0.5 to 3% by weight.

Claim 29 (previously presented) An edible product according to Claim 28, wherein the calcareous residue is present in an amount of 1 to 2% by weight of the product.

Claim 30 (previously presented) An edible product according to Claim 21, in which the calcareous residue also has a nutritive effect.

Claim 31 (currently amended) An edible product according to Claim 21, in which the property includes ~~organoleptic properties include~~ improved mouth feel without an adverse effect on taste or visual appearance.

Claim 32 (Cancelled)

Claim 33 (Cancelled)

Claim 34 (previously presented) A method comprising ingesting the edible product according to claim 21.

Claim 35 (New). An edible product according to Claim 21, wherein the foodstuff comprises pasta and the presence of the calcareous residue in the pasta improves the strength of the pasta and reduces a stickiness of the pasta.

Claim 36 (New). An edible product according to Claim 21, wherein the foodstuff comprises a biscuit and the presence of the calcareous residue in the biscuit increases the friability of the biscuit.